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Applicant: Donald E. Weder Dkt. No.: 8403.953

Application No.: Not yet assigned Examiner: J. Gellner

Filed: Herewith Art Unit: 3643

For: PLANT SLEEVE

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

- 1. [X] Preliminary Statements
- 2. [X] FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)
- 3. [X] Statements as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information not listed in PTO 1449 (Modified))
- 4. [X] Identification of Prior Application In Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted Or Need to Be Submitted
- 5. [X] Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement
- 6. [X] Identification of Person(s) Making this Information Disclosure Statement

Section 1. Preliminary Statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. \S 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Section 2. Form PTO-1449 (Modified)

- [X] A completed Form 1449 (Modified) is attached hereto.
- [] No Form 1449 (Modified) is attached.

Section 3. Statements as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information not listed in PTO 1449 (Modified))

Plant sleeves are old in the art. Plant sleeves typically are constructed of polymer film or paper. Plant sleeves generally are tapered (trapezoidally shaped) with an open top and an open bottom, although some have a closed bottom. A plant in a pot is placed in the plant sleeve so that the sleeve covers the pot and the plant. In some instances, an upper portion of the plant sleeve is removable along a line of perforations leaving at least a portion of the sleeve around the pot. In some instances, a separate sheet of material is placed about the pot and the remaining bottom portion of the plant sleeve holds this separate sheet of material in place. Alternatively, a floral grouping alone may be placed within the sleeve. It is also known to put potted plants in grocery bags.

It is also old in the art to form a sheet of material about a flower pot and then place an elastic band around the sheet of material to hold the sheet in place about the flower pot. In some instances, the band has been positioned about the outer surface of the pot with the sheet of material positioned between the band and the flower pot. In some instances, the band has been positioned

above the upper end of the pot thereby causing a portion of the sheet of material to be forced inwardly over the upper end of the pot.

It is also old in the art to form a sheet of material into a conically shaped tube like member referred to commonly in the art as a sleeve. A floral grouping or flower pot with flowers therein can be disposed through the larger open end of the sleeve, wherein the sleeve covers the floral grouping or the flower pot and extends above and around the flowers in the floral grouping or flower pot.

It is also old in the art that cut flowers have been wrapped with the following materials or combinations of materials:

- 1. Kraft paper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper with the flowers being placed next to the waxed paper or tissue paper.
- 2. Kraft paper plus newspaper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue with the flowers being placed next to the waxed or unwaxed tissue. These three materials have been used to wrap flowers in various combinations such as Kraft paper plus newspaper or Kraft paper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper or newspaper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper.
- 3. Waxed or unwaxed tissue paper, polymer films and Kraft paper (treated for water resistance or wet strength or untreated).
- 4. Polymer film and waxed tissue paper.

Section 4. Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted

This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. 10/195,595, filed on July 12, 2002 (date).

(complete the following, if applicable)

[] This application also relies, under 35 U.S.C. 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. _____, filed on _____ (date).

The references that were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) are not required to be provided in this application; however,

the prior art references listed below were not cited previously in the prior application(s) and copies are provided herewith:

<u>U.S. Patents</u>: 3,293,100; 4,508,223; 4,900,390; 5,076,011; 5,117,584; 5,706,605; 5,735,103; 5,758,472; 5,813,194; 5,924,241; 5,941,020; 5,966,866; 6,009,687; 6,047,524; D424,972; 6,141,906; 6,182,395, 6,183,590.

Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application: Denmark - 1,204,647.

Other Prior Art: WEDER ET AL., "Sleeve with a Triangular Lower End", U.S. Patent Application Publication Pub. No. US 2002/0112401 A1, Pub. Date: 08/22/2002.

Section 5. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement

- [X] Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) accompany this information disclosure statement.
- [] Exception(s) to above:
 - [] Items in prior application from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
 - [] Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

Section 5. Identification of Person(s) Making this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The person making this statement is the agent who signs below on the basis of the information:

- [X] supplied by the inventor(s)
- [] supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)).
- [X] in the attorney/agent's file

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Corbett, Reg. No. 36,109 DUNLAP, CODDING, & ROGERS, P.C.

P.O. Box 16370

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73113

Telephone: (405) 607-8600 Facsimile: (405) 607-8686

Agent for Applicant(s)

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

(Fill-A-Form 7.92)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Attorney's Docket Number **8403.953**

Serial Number

Not Yet Assigned

Applicant Donald E. Weder

Filing Date Herewith

Group

						U	. S	PATENT DO	CUMENTS			
EXAM INIT.			PATEN	IT NUM	BER			ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
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		7	3	2	8_	8_	9	07/07/1903	Paver			
		9	5	0	7	θ	5_	03/01/1910	Pene			
	1	8	4	4	2	6	0	11/12/1912	Schloss			
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	1_	4	4	6	5	6	3	02/27/1923	Hughes			
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	1	6	1	0	6	5	2	12/14/1926	Bouchard			
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	2	0	4	8_	1_	2	3	07/21/1936	Howard	229	87	
	R	E	2_	1	0	6	5	05/02/1939	Copeman	93	2	
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	2	2	7	8	6	7	3	04/07/1942	Savada et al.	154	43	
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	2	3	2	3	2	8	7	07/06/1943	Amberg	229	53	1
	2	3	5	5	5	5	9	08/08/1944	Renner	229	8	,
	 2	3	7	1	9	8	5	03/20/1945	Freiberg	206_	46	

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	2	6	4	8	4	8	7	08/11/1953	Linda	229	55	
	2	6	8	8	3	5	4	09/07/1954	Berger	150	28	
	2	7	7	4	1	8	7	12/18/1956	Smithers	47	41	
	2	8	2	2	2	8	7	02/04/1958	Avery	117	14	
	2	θ	4	6	0	6	0	08/05/1958	Yount	206	58	
	 2	8	5	0	8	4	2	09/09/1958	Eubank Jr.	47	58	
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	3	0	8	0	6	8	0	03/12/1963	Reynolds	47	37	
	3	0	9	4	8	1	0	06/25/1963	Kalpin	47	37	
	3	1	2	1	6	4	7	02/18/1964	Harris et al.	118	202	
	3	1	3	0	1	1	3	04/21/1964	Silman	161	97	
	3_	2	9	3	1	0	0	08/27/1963	Questel		:	
	 3	3	1	6	6	7	5	05/02/1965	Cartwright, Jr.		:	
	3	2	7	1	9	2	2	09/13/1966	Wallerstein et al.	53	3	
	3	3	2	2	3	2	5	05/30/1967	Bush	229	62	
	3	3	7	6	6	6	6	04/09/1968	Leonard	47	41	
	 3	3	8	0	6	4	6	04/30/1968	Doyen et al.	229	57	
	3	4	3	1	7	0	6	03/11/1969	Stuck	53	390	
	 3	5	0	8	3	7	2	04/28/1970	Wallerstein et al.	53	3	
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	 4	0	9	1	9	2_	5	05/30/1978	Griffo et al.	206	423	
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	4	1	θ	9	8	6	8	02/26/1980	Tymchuck et al.	47	84	
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	D	2	5	9	3	3	3	05/26/1981	Charbonneau	D9	306	
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	4	3_	8_	0	5	6	4	04/19/1983	Cancio et al.	428	167	

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		D	2	7	9	2	7	9	06/18/1985	Wagner	D11	143	
		4	5	4	6	8	7	5	10/15/1985	Zweber	206	0.82	
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		4	6	4	0	0	7	9	02/03/1987	Stuck	53	399	
		4	7	1	7	2	6	2	01/05/1988	Roen et al.	383	120	
		4	7	3	3	5	2	1	03/29/1988	Weder et al.	53	580	
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		4	7	7	1	5	7	3	09/20/1988	Stengel	47	67	
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		4	8	0	1	0	1	4	01/31/1989	Meadows	206	423	
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		D	3	0	1	9	9	1	07/04/1989	Van Sant	D11	149	
		4	9	0	0	3	9	0	02/13/1990	Colten et al.	156	291	
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		4	9	8	9	3	9	6	02/05/1991	Weder et al.	53	397	
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		5	1	0	5	5	9	9	04/21/1992	Weder	53	399	
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	 D	3	3	5	1	0	5	04/27/1993	Ottenwalder et al.	D11	164	
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	 5	2	5	9	1	0	6	11/09/1993	Weder et al.	29	469.5	
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	 5	3	5	0	2	4	0	09/27/1994	Billman et al.	383	104	
	5	3	5	3	5	7	5	10/11/1994	Stepanek	53	461	
	 5	3	6	1	4	8	2	11/08/1994	Weder et al.	29	469	
	5	3	8	8	6	9	5	02/14/1995	Gilbert	206	423	
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	5	4	4	3	6	7	8	08/22/1995	Landau	156	191	
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	5	4	9	6	2	5	2	03/05/1996	Gilbert	493	224	
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··· 	 5	5	2	6	9	3	2	06/18/1996	Weder	206	423	
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	5	5	7	2	8	5	1	11/12/1996	Weder	53	399	

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	5	7	5	8	4	7	2	06/1998	Weder			
	 5	8	1	3	1	9	4	09/1998	Weder	53	399	
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	5	9	4	1	0	2	0	08/1999	Weder	47	72	
	5	9	6	6	8	6	6	10/1999	Ferguson	47	41.01	
	5	9	7	4	7	3	0	11/02/1999	Chien	47	41.01	
	6	0	0	9	6	θ	7	01/2000	Weder	53	399	
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	 6	0	4	7	5	2	4	04/2000	Weder	53	399	
	 D	4	2	4	9	7	2	05/16/2000	Ferguson	D11	143	
	 6	0	9	8	3	3	6	08/08/2000	Ferguson	206	423	
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	 6	1	2	9	2	0	9	10/10/2000	Tchira	206	423	
	6	1	4	1	9	0	6	11/07/2000	Weder	47	72	
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	6	1	8	3	5	9	0	02/06/2001	Weder	47	72	
	6	2	8	6	2	5	5	09/11/2001	Weder et al.		- X \	

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	6	3	4	5	4	6	7	02/12/2002	Weder			

	FO	RE:	[GN	I PA	TE	NT	OR	PU	BLISHED FO	REIGN PATEN	NT APP	LICATI	ON	
EXAM INIT.					MENT N				PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Transl	ation
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		0	7	9	1_	5	4	3	08/27/1997	EPO			Х	
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		2	0	3	6	1	6	3	12/24/1970	France			Х	
		2	1_	3	7	3	2	5	12/29/1972	France			х	
		2	2	7	2	9	1	4	12/26/1975	France			Х	
		2	4	8	9	1	2	6	03/05/1982	France			X	
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				1	5	5	5	8	06/02/1900	Germany			Х	
			3	4	5	4	6	4	12/12/1921	Germany			Х	
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		2	0	6	0	8	1	2	11/04/1971				Х	

EXAM INIT.			DOCU	MENT N	UMBER			PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Trans	lation
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	3	4	4	5	7	9	9	06/19/1986	Germany			X	
	3	8	2	9	2	8	1	05/18/1989	Germany				X
	3	9	1	1	8	4	7	10/25/1990	Germany			Х	
		2	2	4	5	0	7	04/30/1996	Italy			X	
		5	4	2	9	5	8	02/23/1993	Japan			X	
	6	1	2	7	5	5	5	05/10/1994	Japan			X	
		8	1	9	3	3	4	01/23/1996	Japan			Х	
	1	0	0	0	6	5	8	01/05/1996	Netherlands			Х	
	8	3	0	1_	7	0	9	12/1984	Netherlands			Х	
	9	3	1	5	9	7	9	08/19/1993	PCT			X	
	9	7	1	2	Θ	1	9	04/10/1997	PCT			X	
		5	6	0	5	3	2	04/15/1975	Switzerland			Х	
				5	6	0	5	05/06/1885	United Kingdom				
	1	2	0_	4	6	4	7	09/09/1970	United Kingdom				
	2	0	5	6	4	1	0	03/18/1981	United Kingdom				
	2	0	7	4	5	4	2	11/04/1981	United Kingdom				
	2	1	2	8	0	8	3	04/26/1984	United Kingdom				
	2	2	0	3	1	2	7	10/12/1988	United Kingdom			Х	
	2	2	1	2	1	3	6	07/19/1989	United Kingdom			Х	
	2	2	5	2	7	0	8	08/19/1992	United Kingdom				
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	Sp	eed Co	over B	rochu	re, "T	he Sir	nple \$		ak Volume Periods", Hi				
	"Sı	eed S	heets	and S	Speed	Rolls	Broc	hure, Highland Suppl	y Corporation, ©1990.				
	"Color Them Happy with Highlander Products" ©1992.												

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	"Costa Keeps the Christmas Spirit", Supermarket Floral, September 15, 1992.
ļļ l	"Super Seller", Supermarket Floral, September 15, 1992.
	"Halloween", Link Magazine, September 1992.
	"Now More Than Ever", Supermarket Floral, September 15, 1992.
	Le Plant Sac Advertisement, published prior to September 26, 1987.
	"A World of Cut Flower and Pot Plant Packaging" Brochure, Klerk's Plastic Products Manufacturing, Inc., published prior to March 31, 1994, 6 pages.
	Chantler & Chantler brochure showing Zipper Sleeve™ and Florasheet®, published prior to March 31, 1994, 2 pages.
	"Stand Alone Plastic Bagmaking" brochure, AMI, Atlanta, GA, February 15, 1996, 2 pages.
	"Foil Jackets" brochure, Custom Medallion, Inc., December, 1996, 2 pages.
	"Derwent Abstract" of FR 2610604A. It is noted that the abstract is an incorrect English translation of the contents of the French patent. The French patent does not enable or disclose adhesively attaching the covering to the container. 1988
	"Silver Linings" Brochure, Affinity Diversified Industries, Inc., 1986. The Silver Linings brochure shows a floral sleeve with a closed bottom. The brochure shows, in one embodiment, a vase with flowers inside a "cut flower" sleeve with the sleeve tied with a ribbon about the neck of the vase.
	"Special Occasion Printed Highlophane Bags" Brochure, Highland Supply Corporation, 1990, 2 pages.
	"Creative Packaging" Brochure, John Henry Company, Sept. 1992.
	"Make Highlander Your Headquarters" Brochure, Highland Supply Corporation, 1991.
	WEDER ET AL., "Sleeve with a Triangular Lower End", U.S. Patent Application Publication, Pub. No. US 2002/0112401 A1, Pub. Date: 08/22/2002.
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED